

May 14, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday in Easter, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Sunday, May 14th 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A
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WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness. Let us confess our sins to the one who is steadfast love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving God,

We do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you and we fail to love others. Create in us a clean heart, O God and renew a right Spirit within us, so that we may love you and love others. Forgive us and guide us through your grace, mercy, and love. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Be at peace knowing all of your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

We will sing the canticle of praise together as one.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God,

In you we live and move and have our being. May we remember this truth, and may we continue to choose life in you. May we keep the commandments of Jesus, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and witness the hope that is within us, sharing Christ's love in the world.

Amen.

READING: Acts 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus

Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing;
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain



"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes,
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
 Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley
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BLESSING OF GRADUATES

Life presents us with various significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduation from high school is one of these milestones. Today we wish to honor those who are moving through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change, and to show them that we, their community of faith, stand with them and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

You bless your children with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have. Bless the parents and guardians of these students, who have raised them and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their children, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

People of St. John, will you promise to keep these graduates and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go forth into the future?

We will.

Will you, as fellow believers in Jesus Christ, promise to help them as need and opportunity arise?

We will.

PRESENTATION OF BLANKETS

The ladies of St. John made blankets for each one of you. As your name is read, please step forward to receive a blanket.

May these blankets remind you of the love and support you have at St. John. When times get hard may you remember this community of faith, and lean into our prayers, as we hold each one of you in prayer. May you find joy, comfort, bravery, and peace wherever your next adventure takes you.

GRADUATE BLESSING

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast to what is good; return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the suffering; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God, the divine giver, gifts us with life and breath and all that is. In gratitude, let us offer our gifts in return for the goodness and grace of God in Christ.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

We give you thanks that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your commandments. Bless these gifts and use them to reveal your love to all of creation.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

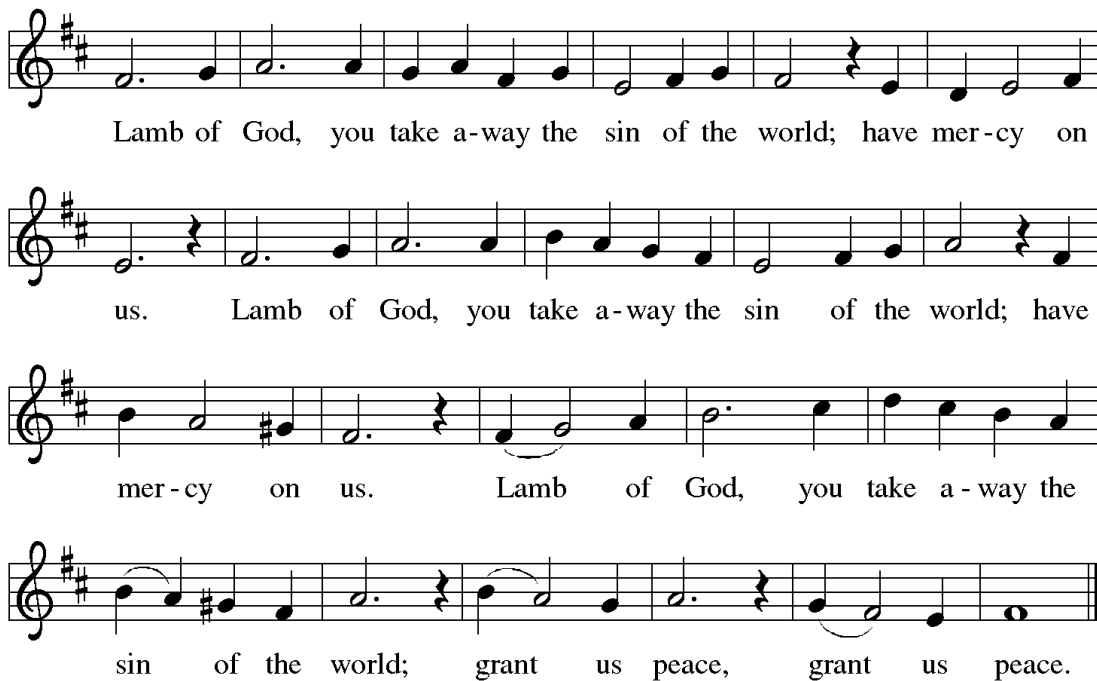
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see God's love.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Refrain

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

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Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,

In you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God, who creates, redeems, and sustains,

Keep you steadfast in faith, buoyant in hope, and abounding in love.

And may the blessing of the Holy God Triune †

Be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sad - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: HENRY DOOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship! Today we acknowledge mothers and special mother-figures in our lives — thank God for you!

God of strong and tender love, thank you for those who have shown me your love in motherly ways, and for the opportunities I have to care for others.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ladies of St. John made blankets for the graduates. They will receive their blankets at this morning's worship service. Good luck in all your future endeavors. May God Bless You All!

Pastor Maggie's Book Club. Monday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* By Mitch Albom.

BINGO Gathering! Let's play BINGO! On Sunday, May 21st, the kids of St. John would like to invite EVERYONE to play BINGO with them in the Fellowship Hall for their last day of Sunday School this year! This will be a fun multi-generational event. BINGO will be called from 10:15am-11am.

BINGO Prize Donations Needed: If you're willing to donate a small item or two as BINGO prizes, please leave them on the back counter in the Fellowship Hall. We'll need prizes for all ages and interests! THANK YOU!

Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. Roots Of Our Faith Adult Study will meet. If you ordered a book, please pick up a copy of your book from Pastor Maggie. They are \$7.00. At this session we will be discussing chapters 1 & 2. If you did not get a book and are interested in joining the study, please talk to Pastor Maggie.

Tuesday June 6, 2023 will be St. John late spring cleaning. We will start cleaning at 5:30 and you are welcome to join when you can.

Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. Worship Service. If you are craving a Wednesday night worship service, because you will be out of town on Sunday, come to this worship service. Pastor Maggie and the Church Council are seeing if there is a need for a mid-week, summer evening service. Please note, this service will not be recorded.

Thursday June 22, 2023 Marathon County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a free event on keeping worship spaces safe. There is a flyer in the narthex for more information, or you can talk to Pastor Maggie if you are interested. It will be at Mount Olive Lutheran Church from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you

prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John May 14 – May 21

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship & Graduate's Receive Blankets

May 15

6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club

May 16

8:30 a.m. Quilting

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

May 21

9:00 a.m. Worship & Hunter Zernicke Baptism

10:15 a.m. BINGO! All are welcome.